



Environmental Justice Small Grants Program Fact Sheet

Purpose

The Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) established the EJ Small Grants Program in fiscal year (FY) 1994. Since its inception, the purpose of the Small Grants Program has been to provide community-based/grassroots organizations with assistance in addressing local environmental problems with local solutions. It solicits grant applications from eligible community-based organizations to support projects that address a community's exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks. To be eligible to receive a grant award under this program, you must be a local community-based organization and must be a non-governmental, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, located in the affected community. A more detailed definition is provided on the next page.

The 2006 Request for Applications period will be open from February 1, 2006 to midnight March 31, 2006.

Project Focus

The focus for this year's Environmental Justice Small Grants Program is collaborative partnerships. Each applicant must demonstrate collaboration between local community-based organizations and others (*e.g.*, industry, government, academia, etc.) to realize their project goals and objectives.

Accomplishments

In **FY 1994**, the pilot program started with only \$500,000 and a limit of \$10,000 per award. Each region received \$50,000 and funded a total of 61 projects. Each year thereafter, OEJ has continued to support local community-based organizations.

Year	Total Funding	Number of grants
1995	\$3,000,000	170
1996	\$2,800,000	152
1997	\$2,700,000	139
1998	\$2,500,000	134
1999	\$1,490,000	95
2000	\$899,000	61
2001	\$1,300,000	88
2002	\$1,113,000	74
2003	\$930,000	55
2004	\$423,545	17
2005	\$625,000	25

For More Information

If you would like more information about the EJ Small Grants Program, please call the Office of Environmental Justice's 24-hour hotline (1-800-962-6215) or visit the website at:

http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/ej_smgrants.html

To be Eligible to Receive a Grant Under This Program, you must be an **"affected local community-based organization."** An affected local community-based organization (LCBO) is defined for this grant program as an entity/organization that is:

- (1) located in the same area as the environmental and/or public health issue that is described in the application and where the residents of the affected community reside;
- (2) focused primarily on addressing the environmental and/or public health issues of the residents of the affected community;
- (3) comprised primarily of members of the affected community;
- (4) able to demonstrate that it is a non-profit organization through designation by the Internal Revenue Service as a Section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization;
- (5) at the most basic level of the organizational hierarchy such as a grassroots group/neighborhood organization that is not affiliated with a

larger national, regional, or state organization.

“Affected” is defined as being in the locale which is influenced or altered by the environmental and/or public health issue.

Individuals; universities; state, local, and tribal governments; water districts or similar entities; water districts or similar entities; large non-governmental organizations such as national environmental groups; environmental justice networks; churches; watershed protection organizations; or organizations that are not located in the affected communities where the projects are located are not eligible to receive Federal funds under this grant program. The organization's primarily purpose MUST be to assist the community in addressing local environmental and/or public health issues.

EPA's Commitment to Environmental Justice

On November 4, 2005, EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson issued a memorandum reaffirming EPA's commitment to environmental justice for all people, regardless of race, color, national origin or income. This means not only protecting human health and the environment for everyone, but also ensure that all people are treated fairly and are given the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

In recognizing that minority and/or low-income communities frequently may be exposed disproportionately to environmental harms and risks, EPA works to protect these and other burdened communities from adverse human health and environmental effects of its programs, consistent with existing environmental and civil rights laws, and their implementing regulations, as well as Executive Order 12898 ("Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," Feb. 11, 1994).

The memorandum also identifies 8 national environmental justice priorities and directs the integration of environmental justice into EPA's planning and budgeting processes, including the Agency's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2006-2011. These national priorities include: reducing asthma attacks; reducing exposure to air toxics; increasing compliance of regulations; reducing incidence of elevated blood lead levels; ensuring that fish and shellfish are safe to eat; ensuring that water is safe to drink; revitalization of Brownfields and contaminated sites; and using collaborative problem-solving to address environmental and/or public health concerns.

EPA will continue to fully implement its programs, policies, and activities to ensure that they do not adversely affect populations with critical environmental and public health issues, including minority and low-income communities.

Contact the appropriate regional coordinator named below.

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Region 1 (ME, VT, NH, MA, CN, RI)
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